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July 11, 1928
(July 11, 1928 10)

Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.
Witherspoon Building
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Lew

Your good letter of July 4th was duly received. Since I saw you last Paul Martin kindly came over and we had a long talk together over the Princeton problem, and yesterday Dr. Stevenson spent the afternoon here and showed me letters which he had received from Dr. Laird, Dr. Crane, Dr. McEwan and Dr. Finney. He said he had difficulties also with regard to the statement which the Directors and Faculty were asked to sign, and that Dr. Erdman had difficulties also.

Some of these it seemed to me rested on the assumption that the adoption of that statement was the only action which it was contemplated the Board of Directors would take. I pointed out that that was not my understanding and that that was only a first step and that there were many other things which it seemed to me should be done. We had a long talk together and I don't know what the outcome will be as to his signing and Dr. Erdman signing that statement, but we should certainly be in a queer position if the minority in the faculty refused to sign it and the majority signed it.

I think Dr. Stevenson felt that there should be more specific and concrete retractions but I told him I did not believe we could get anywhere by such a method and my only hope was that we should wipe out the past and begin afresh.

I am glad that you have had your talk with Dr. Laird and that you have felt encouraged by it to hope that he and others may realize that the problem of the Seminary cannot be solved by any such simple device as removing Dr. Stevenson from the Presidency and making him professor of Homiletics and by Dr. Machen's withdrawing from his election by the Directors to the chair of Apologetics. As to the latter Dr. Thompson told the General Assembly in San Francisco that he hoped in due time Dr. Machen's election might be confirmed. Whatever the issue in that matter, however, whether one way or the other, the solution by removing Dr. Stevenson was certainly not contemplated in the action of the last Assembly but was very specifically pronounced against by Dr. Matthews.

As I have thought the matter over I would raise the question whether it would not be well to try to outline a more comprehensive and radical set of proposals - such as the following:

1. There should be a re-organization and unification of the Boards of the Seminary, bringing into being one new Board such as was proposed by the Committee of Eleven, or with any modifications such as you and Dr. Laird talked over together.

July 11, 1928

2. All the members of the Faculty should place their resignations in the hands of this new board, which would proceed to organize a new Faculty with such retentions or releases of professors, and such re-allotment of duties as might be deemed wise.

3. There should be a clearer and more satisfactory statement of the functions and responsibilities of the Faculty; of the relation of its members to one another; of the office of the President and of the inter-relations of the Board of Directors and the Faculty in their organization and direction of the institution.

4. All the traditional ideals of Princeton with regard to scholarship and thoroughness should be preserved, but there should be a return to the original design of the Seminary and to its character and work under Miller, Alexander and the Hodges, as a School of piety and devotion; of practical training; of missionary and evangelistic zeal.

5. There should be such a re-organization of the curriculum as would enable the Seminary to meet its full present opportunity and to discharge its full present responsibility.

6. A way must be found to fill the institution with a spirit of peace and concord and the glow of love that we have been told characterized the Seminary under Charles Hodge and that we know characterized Dr. Green and Dr. Archie Hodge.

What would you think of our preparing some such set of proposals as this to submit to Dr. McMan's Committee?

Ever affectionately yours,

L. S/B

Sylvester W. Beach

SYLVESTER W. BEACH, D.D.
SECRETARY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U. S. A.
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

FILING DEPT.

JUL 28 1928

1249
SECRETARIES

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July 23, 1928.

Dr. Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Robert:-

Your letter of the 19th was not received until this morning as I have been out of town for a few days.

Dr. Macartney's resolution was passed in the form in which it is reported in the minutes. Dr. Brank who assisted me in keeping minutes of the meeting gave me the original copy after the adjournment, and as given to me the minutes had been read and approved.

I think you carried out both the letter and spirit of the resolution in preparing the "explanation". I do not believe that any member of the Board could have meant that you should make a personal call upon each member of the Faculty and explain thus the meaning of the formula which they were asked to sign. That in fact would have been impracticable, for the members of the Faculty were widely scattered at the date of our Board meeting, and the detail of meeting each one personally, and in time to carry out our purpose, would have required days of travelling either on the part of Professors' or your own. I think we all understood that you were to draw up a statement explanatory of the sense in which the formula was to be understood and interpreted, and send it through the medium of the secretary of the Board, as all such communications are usually transmitted. Moreover, I am satisfied that nothing would have been gained by the personal visitation method. If in calling on Professors you had done more than present to them your written statement as was done by the secretary, ~~verbal~~ oral amplifications would have been necessary which might have varied more or less, or been understood variously by different members of the Faculty, misunderstanding and confusion resulting.

I would like very much to see you, and as I am to be in New York to-morrow, I could call if you happen to be in.

(Since writing the above I have talked with you over the telephone; will hope to see you Thursday afternoon.)

Very affectionately yours,

Sylvester W. Beach

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SECRETARIES

July 19, 1928

Rev. Sylvester W. Beach, D.D.,
Princeton, New Jersey

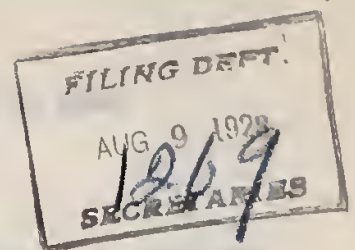
My dear Sylvester:

I have been meaning to write to you with reference to the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Seminary to ask whether there is not some mistake as to the form of Dr. McCartney's motion reported on the last page.

I was out at the time Dr. McCartney made the motion but when I returned I understood that it was simply a request that I should prepare the explanatory statement which I did prepare and submit to you and Dr. McEwan. I did not understand that I was appointed to communicate to the Faculty the explanation of the resolution which was adopted by the Board. My understanding was that that was your duty as Secretary of the board and that my responsibility was simply to prepare the explanatory statement. Is this not correct?

Ever affectionately yours,

RWS/E



August 7, 1928
(Dictated August 6)

Rev. William L. McMan, D.D.,
Box 449, Meadville, Pa.

My dear Dr. McMan:

Your good letter of July 31st is just received. I trust that Mr. Synott will respond favorably to your suggestion and secure at once from the members of the board of Trustees assent by letter to his immediate action.

In accordance with the understanding of our meeting in Philadelphia I have written at length to Dr. Hodge sending him various suggestions. I have written also to Mr. Katzenbach, the Attorney General of New Jersey.

It was suggested also at our meeting in Philadelphia that I might write to Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman and Dr. Laird might write to Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Machen, appealing to each of these brethren to take the lead in effecting a reconciliation in the faculty. After the meeting Dr. Laird wrote expressing some misgivings that had come to him in regard to this plan. I replied endeavoring to answer some of these and received a good letter from Dr. Laird suggesting that he and I write a joint letter to these four. I enclose herewith a copy of my answer to this letter and Dr. Laird's.

With reference to what you write in your letter in your characteristic, loving and Christian way, I think that perhaps the chief difficulty has been our inability as yet to outline a comprehensive and adequate program in which each single proposition is seen in its right relationship. Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman, as I understand, while entirely ready to sign the statement adopted by the Directors hesitate to do so if this is all that is to be done and demur about it on this supposition on the ground that it is a wholly inadequate way of dealing with the problem of the Seminary. The same objection, plus other difficulties, lay in Dr. Stevenson's mind against his resigning the presidency. That was not presented to him as part of a complete program. He has said all along that if the whole problem of Seminary re-organization was to be dealt with in an authoritative and competent way he would put his resignation in the hands of the proper authorities, and as I told you I was disposed to think that if the whole faculty, including the president, would do this the problem of re-organization would be simplified. This is exactly what is done in cases of business re-organization and it is what was done when our boards were consolidated.

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Is it true that the objections of Dr. Machen and others have made against Dr. Stevenson would be met by his transfer from the Presidency to the Chair of Homiletics? Dr. Stevenson would still be the same man and would still have the same convictions and the objections urged against him by Dr. Machen would still have the same grounds. Would not differences of opinion and attitude in the faculty continue accordingly and must not reconciliation and unity here be assured as a part of any program.

Rev. William L. McWan, D. D.,

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August 7, 1928

I am delighted to know that you are out on the farm. I must have been near you a week or so ago when I was speaking at the United Presbyterian Young People's Convention at Conneaut Lake. I hope you are having good haying weather and that those good tough muscles are toughening still more for the tasks that lie ahead.

Ever affectionately yours,

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August 20, 1928

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Rev. W.L. McEwan, D.D.
Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.

Dear Friends:

I have heard from Dr. Laird with regard to the proposed letter to be sent to Dr. Stevenson, Dr. Erdman, Dr. Armstrong and Dr. P. Chen. He writes as follows:

"I have your letter and am glad to sign it with you and send it to the persons named.

In reading it I have thought that the fourth paragraph of the letter should be made a little more definite. I do not want these to whom the letter is addressed, or any others, to get the impression that to bring about what the letter contemplates is our whole task in order to put the seminary on a harmoniously working basis. This is fundamental but in my judgment it is not sufficient. Would it not be well to say in that fourth paragraph - That this being done the group will be enabled to proceed to recommend to the Board such changes and readjustments in the administration and teaching as will most surely make for concord and efficiency.

It is some such statement as the above that I would like to have embodied in the letter.

I think that the sooner the letter goes out the better. You are authorized to affix my name. I hope, however, that you will see your way to include in the letter the sentiment I have expressed."

In accordance with his suggestion I have redrafted the letter and enclose a copy of my letter of today to Dr. Laird embodying his proposed revision in the letter to these members of the faculty.

As you see Dr. Laird suggests that the sooner the letter goes the better I would raise again the question accordingly whether it would not be better for Dr. McEwan to send this letter in behalf of the whole group than for Dr. Laird and me to sign it in this semi-personal, semi-official way. If it is best to send it so we are quite willing to sign it, but if it seems to both of you better that Dr. McEwan should send it I trust that he will assume the responsibility at once of doing so, making such changes as may seem to him wise.

I am going away again at the end of this week to be gone for several weeks and if Dr. Laird and I are to sign the letter I should hear from both of you by Friday morning.

With regard to the proposed meeting of the group in September in the week beginning the ninth, I am sorry to have to say that I shall be away in New England then and would have to make a special trip back for any meeting. If in your judgment, however, a meeting is necessary I could come for September 13th or 14th.

With regard to a conference with Attorney General Katzenbach, I have received the following letter from him:

"I would not be able to arrange a conference with you for at least two weeks. Perhaps it might be altogether better if I suggest that I should meet with you some time after the middle of September. If Dr. Mudge would care to be present at the time that would be entirely agreeable to me, as I always liked him very much. The letter which I wrote you the other day indicated that I would be immediately available to meet you, but circumstances have altered somewhat, and I cannot do so just at present. From what I understand of your letter, it will perhaps make no material difference to you."

If the meeting of our group is called for September 13th or 14th, would it not be well if at least Dr. Mudge and I should arrange to see Dr. Katzenbach if possible before our meeting.

I gather from one of Dr. Mudge's last letters that he doubts whether we can go much further until we have first had a conference with the committee of the Board of Trustees. Is there any possibility of such a meeting in the near future?

I am sending this letter in duplicate to each of you at both of your addresses - to Dr. McDwan at Meadville, Pa. and The Stony Brook Assembly, Stony Brook, Long Island; and to Dr. Mudge at Buckhill Falls and at the Witherspoon Building.

With warm regard,

Sincerely yours,

FIS/B

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DEC 5 1928
1267
SECRETARIES

November 30, 1928
(Dictated November 26)

Rev. Peter K. Sammons, D.D.
Madison Avenue, at Olive Street
Scranton, Pa.

My dear Dr. Sammons:

Your good letter of November 20th is just received and I have passed on to some friends who have been very anxious to have some word from me the first two paragraphs of your letter.

With reference to the Princeton Seminary problem there are times when I despair of any solution but then again I get fresh courage and hope and believe that we ought to press patiently and earnestly on to see if we cannot reach an adjustment that will bind together all the moderate minded men in both Boards who are just as loyal to the Princeton position as any extremist can be and that will leave the responsibility for rebellion and withdrawal upon the extremists who are irreconcilable and who in spite of their denials are the persons who are disloyal to the true Princeton tradition. It seems to me this is a better effort than the head-on collision of antagonistic wings which seek to secure triumph for one by the defeat and exclusion of the other. The solution ought to be worked out by the combination of all the truly conservative men against any obdurate group which is not conservative but irremediably destructive.

The problem is a problem of both of the Boards and of the faculty and I don't believe we can make headway by limiting it to one. There are some members of the faculty who say that nothing can be done on the faculty until the Boards have solved their problem and there are members of the Boards who say that nothing can be done on the Boards until the faculty problem has been solved. Must we not feel our way along as fast as we can go toward the solution of both problems. That is what our Group of Six has been honestly and earnestly striving to do and I hope that you and John McDowell will help us all you can by a sympathetic attitude in the Trustees.

We are to have a meeting of our Group of Six followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors next Tuesday and I hope that shortly after that we may be in a position to ask for a conference with your committee of the Trustees.

With warm regard,

Very cordially yours,

REE/B

December 17, 1928

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DEC 17 1928
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SECRETARIES

The Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, D.D.,
Princeton, N.J.

My dear Ross,

Ever since our meeting on Thursday at Princeton I have been trying to see the road ahead - at least the next few steps of it - but, certainly, that is about as far as one can see. Dr. Mudge, I believe, will prepare the letter to the Faculty as Dr. Beach will be away, and we shall submit the answer requested to that letter before December 11st. Perhaps these will give us some light as to whether any further steps are possible and, if so, what ones.

I have been studying Dr. Craig's amendment and, taken in the written form in which he presented it, a number of the details seem unobjectionable. Evidently the two central points were some abridgement of the functions of the President, and the clear confinement of the Board of Trustees to the financial trusteeship stripped of participation in determining the merits of objects proposed for expenditure. The specific amendment proposed seems innocent enough, but Dr. Craig's statement as to what was intended would, I suppose, simply define in the sharpest way the issue that has arisen between the two Boards, and would aggravate it instead of composing it. Am I correct in this?

Where we are coming out, or whether we are coming out at all, are questions that are still wrapped in mystery to me, but the Good Lord will bring us out some way.

With regard to the vacant professorships, I should like to suggest to you that the best approach is the presentation of the best names. In the case of the Homiletics Chair, for example, we have a good chance now to present the right kind of a name, and I believe that instead of discussing at present the theory of homiletic teaching or the organization of an ideal Homiletics Department, the wise thing would be to bring forward the right man. If Thompson is the right man or Van der Meulen, let us see if we cannot go straight for him and get him.

Ever affectionately yours,

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SECRETARIES

August 24, 1928

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President J. Ross Stevenson,
Professor Charles R. Erdman

My dear Boss and Charlie:

At a meeting of the group of six appointed by the Seminary Directors to recommend a program of action for the Board of Directors which was held in Philadelphia on July 19th we had an all day discussion of the Seminary problem. I gave a pretty full account of this meeting to Boss but have had no opportunity to talk it over with Charlie. The whole set of questions involved in the Seminary problem and its administration and the spirit and ideals was gone over very carefully together and if you could have been there you would not have supposed that the statement which the Board of Directors sent to the Faculty represented all that is involved or that is in mind, but you would have realized that this is only part of a program which some of us at least feel must be conscientiously and courageously carried through.

I think that the whole group realizes the gravity of its responsibility and it is not deceiving itself with the thought that the task is a simple or an easy one. It recognizes that many serious and perplexing elements are involved, but certainly there are some things in the problem that are clear and simple. No solution can be found whatever is done unless the breaches in the faculty can be healed and unless the members of the faculty can work together in unity and trust. I do not know how this can be brought about, but one hopes that it can and one knows that it must.

Among the many suggestions that were made at the ~~meeting~~ meeting in Philadelphia I proposed that I should write to you two because I knew and loved you and trusted you absolutely and because I believe that you feel toward me just as I feel toward you, and I suggested that some other member of the group should write to some members of the majority of the faculty in the same way that I said that I would write to you, asking whether some one or both of those to whom we should write would not take the lead in effecting a complete reconciliation in the faculty, with any expressions of sorrow or forgiveness or true understanding that might be involved and with such a drawing together of minds and hearts as would assure a happy future.

There was a good deal of discussion of this suggestion and later correspondence modified it into a proposal that two of us in the group should sign a joint letter to four of you on the faculty, and I prepared the following:

August 24, 1928

Dear Friends:

As you know the Board of Directors of the Seminary at a special meeting in June appointed a group of six members of the Board to study the problem now before the Board by action of the General Assembly and to report to the Board as soon as possible a comprehensive plan for meeting the difficulties which have arisen in the Seminary and for assuring its future harmony and efficiency. The group realizes the gravity of its responsibility and it does not deceive itself with the thought that the task is an easy or simple one. It recognizes that many serious and perplexing elements are involved.

But the group believes that some things in the problem are clear and simple. No solution can be found, whatever is done, unless the breaches in the faculty can be healed and unless the members of the faculty can work together in unity and trust. We do not know how this can be brought about but we hope that it can and we believe that it must.

We two members of the group who sign this are making bold to ask you four to whom this letter is addressed if you will not, one or some or all of you, take the lead in effecting a complete reconciliation in the faculty, with any expressions of sorrow or forgiveness or true understanding that may be involved among yourselves? Is this not the right Christian method of dealing with the situation according to our Lord's word - Matthew V:23-24 and Matthew XVIII:15?

We do not say that there are not other things that should be done. We think that there are and that the Board of Directors should deal with them, but is this not the first thing and if this were done would not all else be made far easier? And this being done it seems to us that the group appointed by the Directors will be enabled to proceed to recommend to the Board such changes and readjustments in the administration and teaching of the Seminary as will most surely make for concord and efficiency.

We make this appeal in great earnestness and prayer and humility for the sake of the Seminary and for the sake of the Church, and we believe for Christ's sake.

Your sincere friends,

Still later consideration has suggested that the original proposal was best, and Dr. McEwan is writing personally to Dr. Hodge and Dr. Armstrong, and I am taking on myself to write to you two dear friends.

Can you not find some way of doing what is suggested and would it not be a Christian triumph to solve the problem, or to begin its solution, in this way? We are teaching that the grace of God is adequate for any difficulty: Surely it is adequate for this one. Will you not either Ross, as President, or either one of you individually, or both of you together, find a way to let God work this miracle?

Ever affectionately yours,

J. Ross Stevenson

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

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SECRETARIES

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

October 30, 1925.

My dear Robert:-

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I had intended speaking to you yesterday regarding the experience of the Y.M.C.A. in democratizing its forms of government and in allocating a large annual budget. Attending a meeting of the General Council of the Y.M.C.A. as a representative of the General Counselling Commission of the Churches, I heard a very interesting discussion. Mott came out very strongly regarding the failure of having any Board or agency that would represent all the states. This he said might be accomplished by paying the expenses of delegates from a distance and thus greatly increasing the budget, but the past year had shown the impossibility of getting even a quorum to attend important meetings and the whole thing had worked to centralization rather than to democratization. This has a direct bearing on Mark Matthews' scheme to make the Boards of our Church rotary in membership and more widely representative. By having a comptroller and one budget, the General Council had found it impossible to get a whole-hearted response from their constituency. This year, as I understand it, they are changing their plans so as to give more liberty to individual givers who insist on contributing to special objects. Might it not be well for you to get into touch with Mott regarding the experience of the Y.M.C.A. before our General Council meets?

Yesterday evening I had a brief conversation with Dr. Davis, our Senior Professor, as to the possibility of adding Dr. Macartney to our teaching staff. He said something like this: "Do the Directors realize that his election would be strengthening the hands of a faction here which has never favored the erection of a missionary apartment house and is not at all sympathetic with the enlargement of our Seminary work with reference to the missionary problem?" In your conversation with Miss Hodge it might be well to call her attention to this fact. The missionaries themselves realize something of the situation and have been earnestly in prayer that no step should be taken by the Seminary to embarrass or restrict that great interest in Missions which characterized the organization of the Seminary and has been more or less true of it since the days of Samuel Miller.

Following your advice, I wrote to Dr. Patton and have just received his reply, a copy of which I enclose. If you have any advice to give me concerning the proper use of it, I shall be glad to have a word with you at the Executive Committee meeting next Monday.

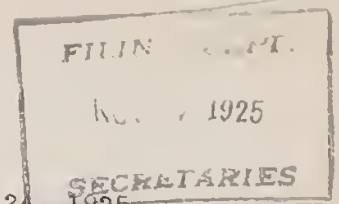
Affectionately yours,

J. Ross Stevenson

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

New York City.

Copy



Bermuda, October 24, 1925.

My dear Dr. Stevenson:-

In reply to your kind letter I write to say that I have for a long time felt that Dr. W. Hallock Johnson was the best man in our Church for the Chair of Apologetics in the Seminary. His studies have been in that line. His acquaintance with contemporary thought is wide and intimate. I know that he is engaged in important studies in the Apologetic field. I know no reason for changing an opinion formed many years ago and confirmed by all that I have seen from his pen. There is no chair that needs special equipment more than Apologetics and all that I can say more is that had I been at the meeting of the Board when the matter came up I should have voted for Dr. Hallock Johnson.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Francis L. Patton.

S. Ross Stevenson

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

PRESIDENT'S ROOM

October 7, 1925.

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SECRETARIES

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My dear Robert:-

We are gratified to learn that you can speak at the memorial service for Dr. Ewing next Tuesday evening. I hope that you will use the service as an occasion to make a strong foreign missionary appeal to our students.

I may say to you in strict confidence that the Committee of Seven to investigate the internal affairs of the Seminary has not made much progress. The dominating element in the committee is evidently in full sympathy with Professor Machen and the extreme fundamentalist measures for which he stands. A sub-committee of three is to draft a report, and fortunately Dr. Finney is a member. I question, however, whether it will be possible for the committee to agree on any report which does not simply gloss over the disturbances of last year, and practically ordain that since Dr. Machen's sympathizers have the majority vote in the Faculty, therefore whether they are right or wrong, they should be permitted to dominate. I wish very much that I might have a chance to go over the whole situation with you. Perhaps you could come down Monday evening, spend the night with us and have a quiet time Tuesday morning for reading, study or correspondence. We would promise not to disturb you then.

Gratefully and affectionately yours,

S. Ross Stevenson

Dr. Robert E. Speer,

New York City.

OCT 21 1925

1269
SECRETARY

October 14, 1925

President J. Ross Stevenson, D.D.,
Princeton Theological Seminary,
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Ross:

I was sorry to have to hurry away last evening. It would have been a great pleasure to stay and to have had a good talk with you and Florence and the Finneys. Some evening in the future, when I get back from some of those fish streams in Nova Scotia with forty one-pound trout - that would certainly be a joyous load to tote in - we will confer and confer!

I am writing now to ask whether it would not be wise for you to write to Dr. Patton, laying out before him fully and freely the present situation and asking his judgment with regard to Dr. Macartney and Dr. Johnson. It is clear from his statements to Dr. Curry that he disapproves of the policy of division, and it might be that his powerful influence could prevail now in averting division and in leading all elements into the united acceptance of some person who would be satisfactory to all. Of course that cannot be, if the policy of schism is definitely adopted by any one, but it is hard to believe that any one charged with a trust with regard to the Seminary would be willing to commit it to a course of division. The general mind of the Church is clearly set against such a policy and the Seminary will be divorcing itself from that general mind, if it should pursue such a policy.

As matters stand now, I imagine that the President of the Board might rule at the next meeting, that no new nominations could be introduced but that the meeting is limited to voting on the two names now presented. I should think it would be well to make sure that the terms in which the Special Meeting is called do not debar the Board from considering other names, if the Board should deem it wise.

Is there some other name that might be suggested of a character that could command the approval and assent of all?

Ever affectionately yours,

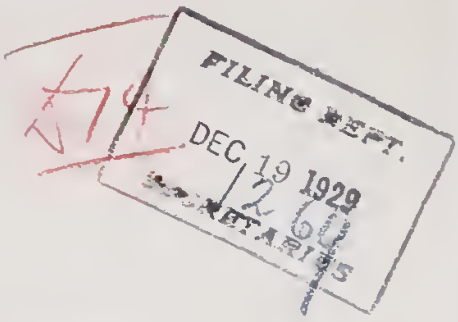
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J. W. Stimson

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

December 10th, 1929.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



Dear Robert,

Enclosed find a copy of the letter which I have written to Dr. Wilson following a confidential letter from him stating that he would be glad to receive any suggestions I might wish to make. I am convinced that the first part of his report regarding the relation of the Seminaries to the General Assembly is very weak and would serve to bring the ten Seminaries which are under the supervision and control of the General Assembly down to the low level of Auburn. Why this Seminary which has broken with the Assembly and is under the control of a certain number of Presbyteries should report to the Assembly at all, it is hard to understand, except on the principle that while Auburn is not willing to be directed by the Assembly it wants to gain every possible advantage in the way of support by keeping in touch with the Assembly. Our Assembly has repeatedly laid down the principle that the instruction in Theological Seminaries is a matter which concerns the whole Church and that these institutions are as much under the control of the Assembly as are other Boards and Agencies. I believe it would be calamitous if the easy-going method of dismissing this whole matter, employed by Dr. Wilson's Committee, should be approved by the next Assembly.

As I may have further correspondence with Dr. Wilson, may I keep your copy of the report a little while longer?

I am looking forward to seeing you with the "Dutch" on Thursday.

Affectionately yours,
Ross

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

The Theological Seminary,

Princeton, New Jersey.

December 9th, 1929.

My dear Dr. Wilson,

I appreciate your generosity in permitting me to make some suggestions regarding the Report of the General Council's Sub-committee, of which you are Chairman. I realize what painstaking work the Committee has done and that you cannot continue indefinitely to listen to suggestions of one kind and another. I would not presume to criticize the Report in any particular if I did not feel that there are some very serious issues involved and that it would be better to discuss them now than have them debated on the floor of the Assembly. What I have to say can be included under three general heads:-

The Relation of the Seminaries to the General Assembly;

The Kind of Provision that may or ought to be made in the Seminaries for Instruction in Religious Education;

The Degrees which may be given by Theological Seminaries for Work done in Course.

I. On the first page of your Report the statement is made that the history of our Seminaries reveals "a great diversity, indeed, in genesis and control". The same thing may be said regarding the Boards of the Church, but the fact remains that whatever the history of the different Boards has been, all of them are under the supervision and control of the General Assembly. In the Minutes of the Assembly for 1917, there is a very interesting report prepared by a Special Committee. The man who was most responsible for framing this report, Dr. James D. Moffat, had been Chairman of the Assembly's Committee on the Consolidation of the Boards, appointed by the Assembly of 1906. It was due to his statesman-like vision and wisdom that the Executive Commission (developed into the General Council) was first established and that, in the face of opposition on the part of the agencies involved who were opposed to Assembly supervision and control. As Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Assembly of 1916 "to investigate the whole subject of the relationship of the Seminaries to the Church and to the Assembly and to each other ... and to consider the possibility of securing some certain, fixed and permanent relation of uniform character between the Seminaries and the Assembly", his Committee reported (see Minutes of the Assembly, 1917, page 117) that "of the twelve existing Seminaries, ten, to wit, Princeton, Western, Kentucky, McCormick, San Francisco German at Dubuque, Bloomfield, Lincoln, Biddle, Omaha, have been directly established or are controlled by the Assembly". The two exceptions are Auburn and Lane. The conclusion of the Committee was:- "It thus appears that while no two of the Presbyterian Seminaries are exactly alike in origin, constitution and government, yet that they are all in some form related organically with the Presbyterian Church". The Committee went further in its report and stated:- "It is essential to the welfare of the Church that some fixed and permanent relation of uniform character between the Assembly and the Seminaries should be established, giving the Assembly unquestioned oversight of the teaching of the Seminaries without interference with the corporate functions of the Trustees or Directors thereof". All this was adopted

and then a very strange thing happened. The recommendations of the Committee calling for the establishment of something like a commission on Theological Seminaries having the same relation to Seminaries which the General Council now has to Boards and Agencies, was lost because of the apathy of the Chairman, Dr. McCormick, who had been appointed to take the place of Dr. Moffat, deceased, and because of the combined opposition of Drs. McKibben and Stewart. I am firmly of the opinion that had Dr. Moffat lived and presented his own report with his usual power of argument, the commission would have been established and some degree of uniformity secured such as the Church has been longing for, for years. Be that as it may, the action of the Assembly of 1917 does not support the statement of your report which, I understand, is simply to the effect that the Assembly can only give advice to our Seminaries or interfere in times of crisis. If your report reflects the opinion of the Church, then Princeton Seminary, along with nine others, has no particular advantage in being under the supervision and control of the General Assembly. Auburn and Lane - and Auburn in particular - which simply reports to the Assembly for "information" are just as well off and have as much right to appeal to the general public for funds and expect the support of the whole Church as has any other institution. By the same token, the new Westminster Seminary, if it can only secure the endorsement of the three adjacent Presbyteries, may reasonably expect recognition on the part of the General Assembly, so that it would become in time a fully-fledged Presbyterian Seminary. I cannot but regard this part of your report as indicating a retreat by the Assembly.

7
II. Here at Princeton we have been giving very serious thought and study to the whole subject of courses in Religious Education. We have learned that there are two classes of students who desire such education. First, College graduates who are prepared to take any course in a Theological Seminary and who desire, in connection with the regular courses, to specialize in Theological Education and are prepared to take stiff courses; Second, those who are not College graduates, or are women, who cannot qualify for the regular work of the ministry and who desire to take courses in Religious Education which will fit them for the position of Director or a Pastor's Assistant. It is difficult, if not impossible, to amalgamate this type of student with the College type taking standard courses in the Seminary. Consequently, in institutions like Union Seminary, Richmond; Auburn; Biblical Seminary, New York; Hartford; not to mention others, the work of Religious Education is separated from the regular theological course and is of such a character as to enroll a large number of women. In these institutions two-thirds or three-fourths of the students are women. To combine such training with the standard courses in a Theological Seminary would seem to be about as difficult as it would be for a medical school to combine a nurses training school with its regular work. Our judgment here is that it cannot be done and that so far as Princeton is concerned, the best we can do is to offer in connection with our regular courses of study, approved courses in the Psychology of Religion, the Principles of Education, and so forth, which will challenge the best effort on the part of College men.

We had up sometime ago the question of a training school for Christian workers and concluded that Princeton is not the best place for it, that if we established one here we would be simply duplicating what is being done in Philadelphia and it would not be wise. It seems to me that your Committee does not take a situation like this into full consideration.

III. The degrees of M.A. and Ph.D. in the main, are academic degrees which professional schools do not grant, or if they do this, it is as in Scotland, by recommending those who are eligible to Universities. It appears to me that it would be very confusing for a Religious Work Director to have an M.A. or Ph.D. which has been given to him by some Theological Seminary. Hartford, which is doing thorough work in Religious Education, does grant the degree of Ph.D., but it is for work far different from that which is pursued by the students in the Department of Religious Education. Just as a Medical School or a Law School confers degrees indicative of their particular line of study, it seems to me that Theological Seminaries ought to grant only such degrees as will indicate at once what is meant. If such degrees are necessary, and probably they are, they should be in line with what the Seminaries have agreed upon as standard degrees, namely, B.Th., M.Th. and D.Th. The Seminaries owe much to the Colleges and we ought to safeguard their interests. Here in Princeton we co-operate with the University. One of our students is a candidate in the University for the degree of Ph.D. When he receives it, it will indicate that he has met the severe requirements of a great University for such a degree. This degree ought not to be cheapened in the way proposed by the Committee.

Regarding the proposed annual conference of Seminary representatives, if such a conference could be held under the guidance of a Sub-committee of the General Council, much more would surely be accomplished. The Colleges have been fortunate in having been instigated by the Board of Education to hold their conferences. The Seminaries at present do not have sufficient incentive to get together. If they were called by a responsible Committee which represents the whole Church and special matters from year to year were brought to their attention for consideration and concurrent action, real progress would be made. I wish very much that the General Council itself could, in some measure at least, serve the purpose which Dr. Moffat had in mind when the report to the Assembly of 1917 embodied his suggestion for the establishing of a commission on Theological Seminaries.

Craving your forbearance and assuring you of my earnest desire to have the whole problem of Religious Education solved in such a way as will prevent these ever-recurring overtures to the Assembly and inspire confidence on the part of the whole Church in the work which these institutions are doing,

I am,

Gratefully and cordially yours,

(Signed) J. ROSS STEVENSON.

President Samuel Tyndale Wilson, D.D., LL.D.,
Maryville College,
Maryville,
Tennessee.

FILING SEPT
DEC 19 1929
1269
SECRETARIES

December 16, 1929
Dictated Dec. 14th.

Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, D.D.
President's Office
Princeton, N. J.

My dear Ross:

1814
(I enclose herewith a further letter from Dr. Whaling dated December 12th. Will you be good enough to answer this when you reply to the preceding letter which I sent you? Perhaps Dr. Mudge would be interested also in seeing both letters.)

I read with much interest the copy of your letter to Dr. Wilson. while believing that we must maintain the constitutional integrity of the Church I am not as strong as you are for piling eggs into the General Assembly basket. I am too much of an old local government democrat.

I wonder also whether two of the statements in your letter to Dr. Wilson are altogether accurate. First, is it true that the Executive Commission was first established "in the face of opposition on the part of the agencies involved who were opposed to Assembly's supervision and control"? I cannot remember that this was the fact. The agencies were the Boards and the Boards were absolutely under the control of the General Assembly. The Executive Commission tried to do some things that the Board objected to such as pooling the benevolences. I made an argument once in Pittsburgh for three hours before the Executive Commission against certain schemes of Dr. Mottett and Dr. Stewart and one or two other members of the Commission but that was not an evidence of any objection on the part of our Board to Assembly control. We were objecting to control by some individuals who were operating along lines that the Assembly did not approve and that were contrary to our book of government. Perhaps you have in mind some other agencies than the Board but I cannot imagine what they were.

And is it correct to say that two-thirds of the students in the institutions that you mention are women? Perhaps this is true of some of them but as I understand, the Women's Training School in Richmond is wholly distinct from the Seminary and that all the students in the Seminary are men.

(I think we had a very good meeting with our brethren of the Reformed Church in America. I trust that they may be able to have a successful series of conferences such as they have projected.)

1814
Bishop Welsh writes that you and I are to meet him and Bishop McDowell at the Prince George Hotel on Saturday, December 21st. I trust you will bring with you a full statement of the creed and polity on which the two Churches may unite to the complete satisfaction of every minister and member in each body.)

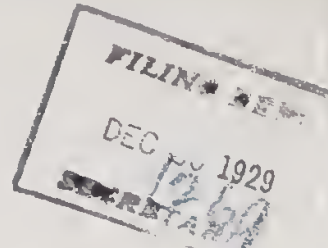
RES/d

Ever affectionately yours,

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

December 17th, 1929.

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



My dear Robert,

Your letter of December 14th has been received and read with deepest interest. I had already written to Dr. Whaling but I shall write to him again and pass on his letter and my answer to Dr. Mudge.

1814
I am looking forward to being with you and the Methodist Bishops this coming Saturday and following your suggestion I shall bring with me such a basis of union as will ensure a Presbyterian Methodist Church that will shine forth in full orbéd splendor by the time our next Assembly meets.

Regarding your two comments on my letter to Dr. Wilson, let me first say that I attended the meeting in Kansas City when the proposal to establish an executive commission was discussed. There was decided opposition thereto and Dr. Moffat, the Chairman of the Committee on Administrative Agencies, was put on the defensive. There was no opposition from the Church at large, which was insisting on a consolidation of the Boards. I do not recall the names of all those who took part in the debate but the impression made on my mind was that the opposition to an executive committee developed in the Boards of the Church which, embracing such hard-boiled democrats as yourself, were afraid of too much centralization. I admit that some of these fears were justified and personally, for several years, I felt that the executive commission, as you expressed it yesterday, functioned too much in the way of policing the Boards. Modesty forbids me to declare that I was the first Moderator who called a halt on schemes of suspicion such as had been operative in the executive commission and challenged the members thereof to assume responsibility for helping the Boards. However, although the executive commission, to say nothing of the General Council, has made great mistakes, and, furthermore, is not the force it might be in the promotion of the Church's benevolences, the fact remains that in the Presbyterian Church which stands for representative government and Assembly control, there must be some kind of a unifying factor. The Boards cannot serve as free lances on the principle of every Board for itself and the devil take the hindmost. Neither can Theological Seminaries serve the Church in an adequate fashion on the principle of the survival of the fittest. The requirement to report each year to the General Assembly and expose nominations to its veto power, should mean interested and wholesome supervision. It seems to me that Dr. Wilson's report makes no provision for this. If supervision and control on the part of the Assembly means nothing more than pious advice from time to time, then the Trust Funds which Princeton Seminary holds are liable to be forfeited because these funds can be held only so long as the Seminary is under the "supervision and control of the General Assembly".

In the second place, it seems to me that Richmond proves the point which I endeavor to make, that you cannot run a training school for lay workers in amalgamation with a Theological Seminary. Richmond tried it and came to the conclusion that its training school must be separated from the Theological Seminary. As I understand Dr. Wilson's report, he thinks Theological Seminaries ought to combine training in Religious Education with the regular Seminary course. My contention is it cannot be done without lowering the Seminary standard. In the schools I mentioned, including Richmond, it has been found necessary to have

Dr. Robert E. Speer.

- 2 -

a separate department and what Dr. Wilson is really arguing for is a training school for lay workers, such as have not had a full College education or such as cannot enter the ministry and are willing to qualify for lay positions in the Church.

However, it probably should be said that neither Dr. Wilson nor his Committee have thought through this whole proposition. Unless Dr. Wilson can put some snap into his report I do not hesitate for one moment to predict that the report as it now is, like one after another prepared by Special Committees on Theological Seminaries, will go into the archives of the Assembly to be completely ignored or forgotten.

Affectionately yours,

Ross -

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

FRANKFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FRANKFORD AVE. AND CHURCH ST.
PHILADELPHIA

April 18, 1929

Robert E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have your letter this morning with reference to procuring additional signatures to our report to the Assembly. The same mail brought me a letter from Judge Fox, in which he said that he thought it would be both unwise and ineffective for him to try to procure any support to the report from members of the board of Trustees, as he felt that he had been discredited in the eyes of the majority of the board by being too sympathetic with the board of Directors!

You probably know that Dr. Morgan presented a substitute to the report of the Committee of Trustees, and that substitute with some changes was referred to the board's committee, and Dr. Morgan was asked to meet and confer with this committee with the hope that the report at the May meeting might sufficiently combine what was in the two reports as to have unanimity in its support.

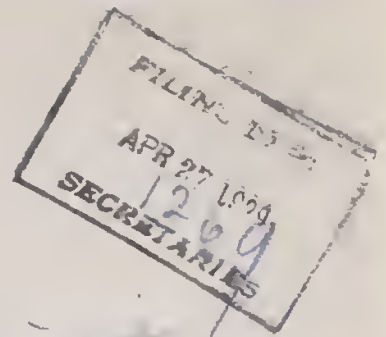
It would seem therefore, that Dr. Morgan should be the one to decide on the wisdom of making any advance to any members of the board, until this joint committee makes its report.

I am rather discouraged in the matter, and yet I have more confidence than ever that our report is along the right line. The President of the Seminary did not support our report at the Trustees Meeting. His remarks were such as to leave the impression on me that whilst he had voted for it at the Directors Meeting, he did not favor it. And what discouraged me most of all was that the Committee of the Board of Trustees having this matter in hand, of which the President is a member, and the meetings of which he told us some time since that he always attended, brought to the Board a report which was nothing less than a most vicious and unwarranted attack on the Board of Directors.

You have been in correspondence with Judge Fox. You know his mind. I am ready to do anything that will further our plan. I realize the difficulty we are going to have in procuring much consideration from the Board of Trustees. A little missionary work with the President of the Seminary and the Secretary of the Board of Trustees might be helpful.

Very Cordially Yours,

John B. Laird



FILING DEPT.

JUL 18 1928

1219
SECRETARIES

June 21, 1928

Rev. William L. McEwan, D. D., LL. D.
906 S. Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Dr. McEwan:

At the meeting of the Princeton Seminary Directors yesterday I was instructed to prepare an explanatory statement to go with the action which was taken by the Board of Directors and to be sent to the members of the Board of Directors and the faculty.

I don't want to send this to Dr. Beach for transmission with the action without your approval and Dr. Alexander's. I enclose herewith a suggested statement. It is repetitious and could be improved by abbreviation. Will you indicate any omissions or changes that seem to you wise.

Personally I doubt the need of any such statement if only the action of the Board is carefully read and it is accepted precisely as it stands without any additions or subtractions.

But I have done what I could to obey the instruction of the Board and should be glad if you would check over the enclosed and return it immediately if possible.

With best wishes,

Very faithfully yours,

RWS/B

Lewis S. Mudge

FILING DEPT.
1267
AUG 30 1928
SECRETARIES

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXECUTIVE HEAD
REV. LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
STATED CLERK

GENERAL OFFICE
514 WITHERSPOON BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

July 14th, 1928

Dr
Rev. Robert E. Speer,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Bobby:-

Your good letter concerning the Princeton situation is just received.

You have doubtless received my wire and know of the meeting of the Princeton Group in my office next Thursday morning at 11:15, daylight time. I wish we could have a conference prior to that meeting, but that seems impossible.

As nearly as I can judge from what you have written, our ideas are precisely the same. Certainly they are the same as to fundamental principles. I cannot see why we should not accept, with perhaps some minor modifications of little importance, the re-organization plan of the Committee of Eleven and then proceed from that to make such other agreements as may seem wise.

I feel sure that the majority of the Board of Directors will fight to the bitter end, the plan proposed at the last Assembly, of appointing the proposed Single Board of Control. If we can devise some other method of selecting the personnel of said One Board, I do not believe we will have serious difficulty in securing the victory for the One Board idea. If we can establish this idea, I am sure the rest will work out with relatively little difficulty. In this connection, the one plan that has seemed to be acceptable to the majority of the Board of Directors, has been to constitute the proposed One Board of entirely members of the two existing Boards and to make it large enough to include practically all the members of the two Boards as now constituted.

Hoping to see you Thursday morning next,

Ever affectionately yours,

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

FILING DEPT.

JUL 28 1928

1269
SECRETARIES

July 27, 1928
(Dictated July 26)

Dr. William L. McEwan
906 South Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear Dr. McEwan:

Since our meeting in Princeton I have seen Dr. McDowell and he said that he felt sure the Board of Trustees would be glad to appoint a committee conference with our group at the Trustees' meeting in November. I told him that the Board of Directors meet in October and that it was our earnest hope that there might be a meeting between committees representing the Directors and the Trustees before the Directors' meeting. Dr. McDowell said that this could only be accomplished by a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to appoint a committee. I wonder, however, whether Mr. Synnott as President of the Board of Trustees might not feel willing to assume the authority of appointing a committee without a special meeting, and whether he could not, through Dr. McDowell, consult the Trustees in writing and obtain authority? Would it not be well for you to write to Mr. Synnott on the subject?

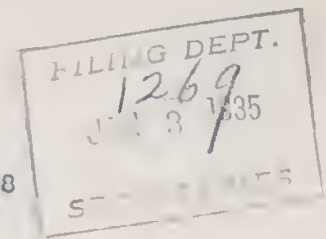
Dr. Beach has just been here and shown me a fine letter from Dr. Patton, which he will send to you. I asked him to report to you also what replies he had received from directors and faculty with regard to the statements proposed by the Board of Directors.

With warm regard

Your sincere friend

RES-MAW

July 30, 1928



The Rev. Lewis . . . Judge, D.D.,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Lew,

I have written to Ed. Ketzenbach with regard to the legal possibility of merging the two Princeton Seminary Boards. He may not think it proper to answer, but I am hoping that he will.

We were all instructed by the last meeting of the group in your office to send you any suggestions for the consideration of the Committee consisting of yourself and Dr. Laird. I have very little confidence in my wisdom in this matter. I feel more and more that the problem is outside of my sphere. As I have studied it and talked with men about it, I feel less and less assurance that we are solidly seated in this whole business in the New Testament, and as I have turned away from all our other documents, charter and plan and all to breathe with freedom again the glorious air of the New Testament.

Such suggestions as have come to me thus far are, first, the notes I made and talked over with Dr. Warfield before the meeting of the Directors in Princeton; second, the points in my letter of July 11th to you, and, third, the points I tried to make in my statement at the meeting in your office.

I enclose a copy of the points which I suggested to Dr. Warfield and you have, of course, a copy of my letter of July 11th. The points which I tried to make in the statement in your office were as follows:

1. That there be no separate meetings of groups or factions either of directors or of members of the faculty or of both, but that all plans be made and all discussions be carried on openly and trustfully.
2. That there be a joint friendly conference together of the Board of Directors and Trustees to consider our common problem.
3. That a careful statement be prepared to be presented to each member of the faculty and to be accepted by him as a condition of his continuance in the work of the Seminary setting forth the necessity of reconciliation and harmony, and making it plain that it is the conviction of the General Assembly, of the Board of Directors and of the Church that peace and unity are both possible and desirable and indispensable.
4. That we have no secrets from one another or from the President of the Seminary and that there be no secret Conferences from which he is omitted.
5. That any member of the faculty who refuses to be reconciled to or to

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pray with any fellow member of the faculty be advised quietly and of his own motion to withdraw from the work of the Seminary.

6. That we keep clearly in mind the statements as to the cause of our troubles and the assurances as to the future given to the Assembly by Dr. Warfield and Dr. McMan, and scrupulously carry out the intimations thus given and the instructions of the Assembly.

7. That earnest heed be given to the necessity of providing the teaching force so sorely needed in the Seminary and that we make sure that all teachers are men who believe in maintaining the peace and unity of the Church on the basis of our standards and historic principles.

Our problem is not a simple problem at all, but very much involved. There are four different elements in it:-

1. One difficulty is found in the inharmonious personalities and the lack of tolerance in the faculty. Dr. Warfield in his minority report concentrated attention on this. He dissented from the view that the root and source of the serious difficulties at Princeton is in the plan of government by two Boards and declared that in his judgment "the root and ground of the difficulties are embodied in personalities and so far as they are not embodied in personalities they are embodied in the lack of that tolerance which we so strongly claim for ourselves and so generally deny to others." This may not be the whole truth, but it is truth, and so long as there is disunity and conflict in the faculty there can be no solution of the Seminary problem by any adjustments elsewhere. The Directors should require harmony and tolerance in the faculty as the condition of the continuance of the professors. Ideally, of course, the faculty should solve the problem itself, and my suggestion to Dr. Laird was that he should write to some members and I should write to others, urging them to take the initiative in effecting a true unification of mind and spirit within the faculty itself. Since our meeting Dr. Laird has written me expressing misgivings regarding our writing such letters, and I have answered him under date of July 26th. I trust he will show you both his letter and mine.

2. I think that there has been ineffectiveness in the administration of the Seminary. I pointed out at our meeting on pages 39 and 55 of the pamphlet of the Charter and the Plan sections which involved genuine confusion of function as between directors and trustees, and I think we should give further consideration to the proposal to meet these difficulties by a single board, as recommended by the Committee of Five and then by the Committee of Eleven. Perhaps antagonistic views could be reconciled by substituting for the Plan of the Committee of Eleven one Board made up by merging the present two Boards. In any case if one Board is formed, I should think that all the members of the faculty ought then to place their resignations in its hands, so that it could have entire freedom in the re-organization of the Seminary. So far as the problem of administration is a matter of clear and more satisfactory definitions of the functions of the President and faculty and their relations to the Board of Directors, it is to be hoped that the amendments of the Plan, as we discussed it together, might prove effective.

3. The third source of difficulties has been unquestionably the doctrinal discord and distrust involving either openly or by implication charges and suspicions with regard to the fidelity of professors under their inauguration vows. The report of the Committee of Seven of the Directors several years ago absolutely exonerated

all the members of the faculty in this regard, but it did not put a stop to this discord and controversy. It was followed by public statements filled with distrust and suspicion. All this simply must be cleared away in one way or another. There is, of course, and must be room for disagreement and differences of view, but within the broad loyalties of the Seminary there must be toleration and mutual confidence.

4. There is need of reenforcing and strengthening the Seminary, preserving all its undoubted energies of strength and power but supplementing these. Men are needed in old Chairs and for the new Chairs who will preserve the ideal of scholarship and who will do thoroughly their work inside the walls of the Seminary, but who also will carry the influence of the Seminary out into the world and we need to recover and illustrate afresh the emphases ⁱⁿ the introduction of the plan of the Seminary with regard to piety, unity of sentiment, spiritual devotion and pastoral training. Perhaps this is to be done by a different spirit in the whole institution, perhaps by changes in the faculty, and perhaps by changes in the curriculum.

I have put these points very inadequately. I have said a great deal more at our meeting than I have had time to incorporate here, but I know that I am only expressing your own mind in these matters, and you can add anything else that is necessary in your conferences with Dr. Laird.

Since beginning this letter I have received another letter from Dr. Laird in which he inclines somewhat more favorably to the idea of our sending a communication to some of the faculty. He asks me to prepare a draft letter, and I will try to do this, although I am not sure whether a common letter can be drafted that he and I could wisely send to representatives of both faculty groups. Still, it may be possible, and we must do everything that we can that is truly Christian. Dr. Laird says that he was leaving on Monday, that is, today, for Maine. Does the appointment of another meeting of our group for August 28th still hold? That is going to be a bad day for me. I wonder if Friday, the 24th would not suit Dr. McEwan just as well, or either Friday the 17th or Monday the 20th? If, however, it must be the week beginning the 26th, I see now that I could arrange to come for Monday, the 27th, which I understand would suit Dr. McEwan better. It may be, however, that you are throwing the whole thing over into September.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES:C.

MAILING DEPT
OCT 28 1933
SECRETARIES

October 28, 1933

Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.,
Witherspoon Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Lew:

Your letter of the 19th with regard to proposition that might be agreed upon with the Board of Trustees in connection with the proposal to unite the Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors in one has been received.

I am sorry some of the objections which you may have mentioned are too stringent by some of the members of the Board of Directors and perhaps by some members of our Group of Six.

Your first suggestion I should think might be agreed upon. In the past we have assumed all along that all the decisions of the Board of Directors would be upon the establishment of a new Board of Directors and that the Board of Directors would have no voice in the matter. Presumably it would be necessary for the Board of Directors to have a vote in the matter of this kind. I judge from what I have heard that neither Mr. Synott nor Mr. Flower would wish to be a member of the new Board.

Your suggestion that all committees be determined by a vote of the Board also be agreed upon. I should think it would be well to have a complete set of new chairmen, although this too might seem a little extreme to some of the chairmen, and yet the proposition would seem to be equitable as it would split equally to the two present Boards.

The proposal that it should be agreed that the present administration should be continued and given a fair opportunity to function under the new arrangements with the hearty support of the Board would be altogether acceptable to me. I have not seen the evidence which might be so abundant and convincing that Dr. Steen on lacks the administrative capabilities that is required. As you know I should wish to see him continue to preside but you know that the strong feeling of others is that I don't know whether we can secure such a stipulation or this. Perhaps we could for a period of a year but I am not sure. Such a stipulation would of course be directly contrary to the last paragraph of the last paper presented to us by the majority of the faculty.

Dr. Weston is willing to go on temporarily and happily under the new arrangements if adopted in the work of the Seminary. I am not sure whether he would be better in his present position or in the Chair of Exhortation. As far as his continuing to be on the Board he might be willing to continue in either place. I am not sure whether he is as well situated as he would be to do that. It is one of the things which remain to be decided.

I have had the pleasure of seeing you and it is very
pleasing to hear from you.

I am glad the majority of the Trustees will recognize that
neither they nor the majority of the Directors should regard the present
negotiation as a battle in which the majority of the Board must defeat,
or be defeated, by the majority of the other Board. We are anxious to
compose the difficulties in the Seminary, and I judge that the Board
mean that the tiger must eat the lady; the tiger being the larger majority
you will.

The representatives of the majority of the Trustees and the
Group of Six have been very fair and anxious and I hope you will come
with that will be acceptable both to them and to the majority of the
Directors.

Very respectfully yours,

W.C.

FILING DEPT
DEC 1 1928
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SECRETARIES

November 27, 1928

Rev. Lewis S. Mudge, D.D.,
Witherapoon Building
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Lew:

I have a number of notes from you this morning.

We shall be glad if you will send over the copies of my San Francisco missionary address. I think we shall be able to use them here.

I shall write as soon as I can the article for Mr. Bailey, which he has sent me with your letter.

I am sorry Judge Bradley goes on the warpath so fiercely on the subject of our correspondence with Mr. Katzenbach. Would it not be well for you to send him a copy of your letter to Mr. Luccock?

I will give thought to Dr. Laird's suggestions regarding our proposal to be sent to the faculty. I think this is one of our most difficult and crucial issues. If we become too stiff we may not be able to carry the Board of Directors, and if we become too lenient we shall certainly lose the Board of Trustees. I must say that I doubt the wisdom of Dr. Laird's suggestion of addition to paragraph one. It would seem to hold out the possibility of the Board of Directors authorizing the members of the faculty publicly to attack some fellow member of the faculty, or even the Board of Trustees, or the Board of Directors itself. Perhaps Dr. Laird's point could be covered if we should lay down a rule that if any member of the faculty has anything against any other member of the faculty, the first body to which he must present it is the Board of Directors.

I trust that we may have both wisdom and love and courage from above for our next meeting.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES.B

FEB 9 1929

February 6, 1929
(Dictated February 6)

SECRETARIES

Rev. William L. McEwan, D.D.
906 So. Negley Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear William:

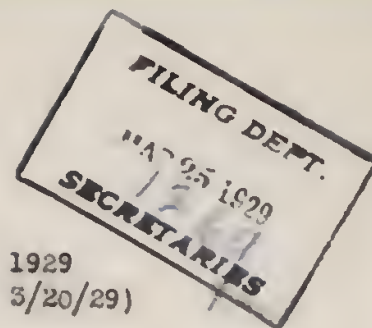
Your good letter of February first has been received and I am delighted with your approval of the little missionary book. We are getting most encouraging responses to it from all over the Church. The printer has been very slow in supplying our orders and just at present we have almost none in stock. We are hoping for a fresh supply this week but without waiting for it I am writing directly to the printer asking him to send you 100 copies.

I think we all have occasion to feel the encouragement which you express with regard to the final vote of the Board of Directors last Tuesday. I wonder now whether it would not be well if you would write a personal letter to each of the six men who stood together in the final vote against our report, appealing to them to agree to support us. If we could go to the Trustees assuring them that the entire Board of Directors, with the exception of Dr. Craig whom I judge is immovable, were either earnestly supporting our proposal or would accept it without opposition I think we would be in a very strong position and might hope to carry the Trustees with us in a united recommendation to Dr. Thompson's Committee and the General Assembly. Possibly Dean McGhee might be as immovable on the Board of Trustees as Dr. Craig appears to be on the Board of Directors, but if all the rest of us stood together I believe we could carry the matter.

Will you not take the matter up with Drs. Craig, McCartney, Crane, Inglis, Stevenson and Beach. I spoke to Dr. Beach at the close of the last meeting and he said explicitly that he would not join in a minority report.

Ever affectionately yours,

RES/B



March 21, 1929
(Dictated 3/20/29)

The Hon. M. Linn Bruce
68 William Street
New York, N. Y.

My dear Judge Bruce:

Last week our group of six representing the Board of Directors met, first with the committee of the Board of Trustees and then with the whole Board of Trustees, in a further effort to get them to join with the Board of Directors in recommending to the General Assembly a single board composed of the two existing boards. I think we made some impression on the trustees and they voted on Judge Fox's motion to defer their further and final action until after the meeting of the Board of Directors, which was held in Princeton the following day, Friday, March 15th.

At this meeting of the directors on Friday our group presented unanimously a draft report to the General Assembly. Dr. Mudge has, I think, already sent you a copy of this. After a long discussion, in which Dr. Craig and others made every effort to defeat the group's recommendation and to substitute therefor a report which Dr. Craig had prepared, the Board of Directors voted, by a vote I think of fourteen or fifteen to nine, to adopt the group's report. Dr. Craig gave notice that he and probably others would present a minority report to the Assembly.

The group has asked me to write to you expressing the hope that you will be willing to join with the majority of the Board. We are asking those members of the Board who were not present at the meeting to indicate whether they are willing that their names should be attached to the report and we are hoping that a considerable number of the trustees will be willing to join with us.

Dr. McEwen is hopeful that Dr. Patton will also join, and Dr. Laird is under the impression that Dr. Maitland Alexander will do so; and inasmuch as Dr. Warfield advocated some such plan as we proposed we are hoping too that he will join. All these hopes may be disappointed but we are earnestly trusting that you will add your name.

You may feel that as a member of the General Assembly's committee of eleven you ought not to sign a report from the Board of Directors. Possibly Dr. Warfield may take the same view, but I doubt

Page #2.

very much whether Dr. McDowell, as one of the representatives on the committee of eleven, will feel that he should refrain from expressing judgment. Perhaps he will feel that it would be altogether proper for him to support still the report of the committee of eleven, while you and Judge Fox might feel that you ought not to let your name stand attached to that report and at the same time sign such a report as the majority of the Board of Directors have adopted. We are hoping, however, that both you and he and Dr. Warfield will feel that you can join.

With kind regard,

Very faithfully yours,

RES/d

Extra

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SECRETARIES

April 23, 1923

Rev. Lewis O. Mudge, F.D.
Witherspoon Building
Philadelphia, Pa.

P. M. C.

My Dear Lew:

Your good letter of yesterday is just received. I confess to a little shivering when I read your letter of April 25th with its suggestion of a compromise arrangement to Minot Morgan. My thought had been, as I wrote you, that nothing of this sort should emanate from you and me. You will have seen, no doubt, the last issue of the Presbyterian with its false insinuation in the opening paragraph to the effect that you and I had from the beginning, because of our commitment to the Thompson report, plotted to bring about a disagreement in the Board of Directors that would play into the hands of Dr. Thompson's Committee and insure the adoption of his report. This was exactly what Dr. Craig insinuated in the issue of the Presbyterian which printed his long previous statement. At that time, however, the insinuation was left in an anonymous form. I went directly to Dr. Craig about the matter and asked him to whom he referred and told him that if it came to you and me that he referred his insinuation was absolutely false and unworthy.

No one repeats the statement - this time mentioning us by name. As we both know his insinuation is baseless. As for me I have never been absolutely sure about the Thompson report although I think it is vastly preferable to Dr. Craig's proposition. The logical attitude of Dr. Thompson's report I have been shady about from the beginning, but even if I had been wholly in favor of it that would not have entered into the matter in the way insinuated by Dr. Craig. You and I have both tried in the most earnest way to work with Dr. McEwan and Dr. Laird in bringing all elements together. The most obstructive element and the one which has done most to insure the adoption of Dr. Thompson's report has been Dr. Craig and his group.

I don't think it is worth while to take matters up with him again telling him that the opening paragraph and the statement in the editorial in his last issue is mendacious and malicious, but I fear that your letter to Minot Morgan and any public use of it on his part would give Dr. Craig a pretext for defending his insinuation.

Perhaps I am wrong, but if in thinking it over you feel that I am right, wouldn't it be well for you to drop Minot a note asking him to return your letter to you and to forget it. Perhaps I am wrong in the matter. You know how fully I trust your judgment.

Ever affectionately,

F. M. B.

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MAY 22 1929
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SECRETARIES

Rev. Samuel C. Craig, D.D.,
The Presbyterian
1317 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

May 7, 1929

Dear Dr. Craig:

At the meeting of the Board of Directors of Princeton Seminary yesterday afternoon I had intended on a point of personal privilege to make a simple but earnest protest against the insinuation in the opening paragraph of your leading editorial entitled "Reports of the Directors of Princeton Seminary," in "The Presbyterian" of April 25th, 1929. I concluded, however, to say nothing public but to send you this personal note.

You will remember that I spoke to you at a meeting of the Board of Directors in March with regard to the statement in "The Presbyterian" of March 7th, charging that the effort had been deliberately and purposely made "to prevent the Board of Directors from presenting a unanimous report to the next Assembly, in the hope and expectation that if the Board of Directors goes to the next Assembly with a divided report, it could be ascertained that, the Directors having proven themselves incompetent to perform the task assigned it, the re-organization of the Seminary proposed by the Committee of Eleven should be adopted."

I asked you to whom this implication might refer: You declared that you had no one in mind. I answered that I thought it certainly was wrong to make such a statement unless there were grounds for it and that such ground could only be found in the actions of individuals. I told you also that the only persons of whom I knew who were trying to prevent unanimity on the Board of Directors were yourself and your associates but that certainly you would not be making such self accusations and it was inconceivable that you could have ^{my} view in seeking to prevent unanimity ~~to~~ the promotion of the adoption of the Thompson report. I said further that the only other persons to whom you might conceivably refer were either Dr. McEwan and Dr. Laird, or Dr. Hudge and myself, and that in either case your statement was absolutely unwarranted and untrue.

Now in your issue of April 25th in the paragraph referred to you explicitly name Dr. Hudge and myself and the implied charge is unmistakably that Dr. Hudge and I have sought to create or to ~~continue~~ differences in the Board of Directors in order to promote the adoption of the Report of the Committee of Eleven. This charge or insinuation is absolutely unwarranted and untrue and its publication in "The Presbyterian" by you as a Director of the Seminary,

May 7, 1929

reflecting on the good faith of your fellow directors, passes all bounds of propriety and honor.

Dr. Mudge and I have done our best in honor of a association with Dr. McLean and Dr. Laird, in the attempt to discharge a duty which we did not seek out which was laid upon us on Dr. Farfield's motion and, if I remember right, by unanimous action of the Board of Directors, to find a harmonious way to compose the difficulties of the University. Working together with full mutual confidence from the beginning, we have done our best to compose our difficulties with regard to the Faculty, with regard to the Directors and with regard to the Trustees. It has not been our fault that we have failed in the matter of the Board of Directors, and our motive throughout has not been to assure failure of agreement, as you charge, but to secure agreement. It is wrong and untruthful and dishonorable to charge us with bad faith or with the secret purpose of preventing the harmonious agreement of the Board.

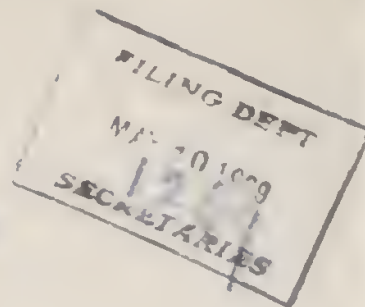
We are ready to recognize your conscientiousness and loyalty to conviction in your position. We have said not one word with regard to your motives or spirit. Surely you should be equally just and brotherly.

I write this not to invite any controversy, either public or private, but simply as a frank and honest word from man to man within the fellowship of our Board of Directors.

Very sincerely yours,

RCS/B

Extra copy



May 7, 1929

Rev. William L. McMan, D.D.
908 So. Negley Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear William:

On returning to New York this morning I found your note of May 4th which must have crossed my letter to you.

I will meet you in Dr. Mudge's office on Friday morning, May 10th, as near ten o'clock as possible (Daylight Savings time). I may be a few minutes late, or I may come over on a very early train. As you know, I shall have to leave Philadelphia at twelve o'clock, daylight savings time. I imagine, however, that Dr. Thompson's Committee will not want a very long conference with us and I think the best thing for us to do is for you to speak at length and let that suffice. I am afraid that if we go beyond that they may ask us questions and draw us into arguments that will disclose the weaknesses in our position which Dr. Laird and others of our group meting in Princeton yesterday noon.

These weaknesses are of course undeniable and patent. It is not for us, however, as officially representing the recommendation of the Board of Directors to state the arguments against that recommendation unless you wish to do so in your presentation. I judge that these arguments which no doubt others will bring out are three: First, and most important the opposition of a strong minority in the Board of Directors; second, the unwillingness of the majority of the Trustees to join with the majority of the Directors; and third, the fact that some of those who have signed the report of the majority of the Directors did so in the expectation that it might be made a unanimous report and might not be disposed to change their position either because of the attitude of the majority of the Trustees or because of the attitude of the minority of the Directors.

Will we not accordingly be able best to discharge our functions as a committee appointed by the Directors to present the matter if you simply state the whole case as temperately and wisely and justly as you can, and as truly and considerately as you always do?

Perhaps I should report to you that in a letter received this morning from Dr. Machen on another subject he also speaks severely of my participation "in the attack upon the conservative control of Princeton Seminary."

Ever affectionately yours,

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SECRETARIES

May 17, 1929

Rev. William L. McEwan, D.D.,
806 So. Negley Avenue,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

My dear William:

Your good letter of May 13th was received yesterday and I share fully with you your solicitude over these difficult problems.

I think you made as good a statement as could have been made at the meeting with the Committee of Eleven. If there had been more time I should have been glad to speak also, but I doubted whether any words at that time would be of service.

I have just received this morning the enclosed letter from Judge Fox, with which I am sending a copy of my reply. You know how sympathetically and earnestly Judge Fox has worked with us in this matter and I think it would be very nice if you could write to him.

Our Committee of Three is indeed in a very difficult position. We know that the majority of the Trustees whom we represent have divergent views on some questions. We heard Dr. Radcliffe's statement when we met the Committee of Eleven and we know that there are others who have joined with us but who take just the opposite view from Dr. Radcliffe.

I should suppose that Dr. Craig and the minority would oppose such a suggestion as is contained in Judge Fox's letter, but I should think, though I may be wrong, that most of the majority might be willing to accept it inasmuch as it rests on the principle to which the majority had agreed of having one Board made up of the two present Boards. It is too bad that we would not have presented such a proposition as this to the Board of Directors as an alternative to our present report. We could then have ascertained whether they would be willing to entertain such a suggestion.

I have had no discussion of the matter since we met in Philadelphia with any of the Directors or Trustees or the Committee of Eleven. I saw Dr. Herrick but we had not more than a dozen words on the subject. I believe we could work out the problem all right and with full harmonious adjustment if it were not for the strong convictions and immovable attitudes of the majority of the Directors. They disapprove of the report of the Committee of Eleven and also of the action of the Trustees and they say they disapprove still more of the report of the majority of the Directors. They would disapprove also, of course, of the suggestion in Judge Fox's letter. I do not see a cordingly that there is any possibility of a general agreement and there is no time now for you to consult all of the majority of the Directors to ascertain whether they would be willing to authorize you to depart in any respect from the majority report in the direction of some such adjustment as Judge Fox's letter suggests.

May 17, 1929

Perhaps, as you say, there is nothing for us to do as a Committee of Three but to present our report as best we can. The weakness of our position of course will be that we were instructed by the last General Assembly to compose our difficulties and that our report will be met in the Assembly by a strong minority of our own Board declaring that we have not composed them at all and opposing in the strongest way our attempted method of composition.

I think with Dr. Beard's words there is absolute need of a full re-organization, both of the Boards and of the institution within. The last section of Dr. McCarthy's article in 'The Presbyterian' and 'The Standard' stating that after all, things are doing very well within the Seminary, is overwhelmingly contradicted by the students' statement which has been sent out.

It may be there is nothing more we can do but just look to God to govern the action of the Assembly and to control the issues thereof.

With warm regard,

Ever affectionately yours,

WLS/B

ROCKLEDGE
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

October 12th, 1938.

Pres. John A. Mackay, D. D.,
Princeton, N. J.

My dear John:-

I thought our meetings yesterday were quite helpful and satisfactory and I think we ought to make the dinner an annual affair in connection with the fall meeting of the Trustees.

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter which I have just written to Dr. Hugh.

With reference to Dr. Hennighausen, my understanding is that he was elected Professor by the Board of Trustees and that the election stands pending final action by the next General Assembly. I think our minutes should indicate that you and Dr. Fuga, as the Committee representing the Board before the General Assembly's Standing Committee, had withdrawn the name for action by the last Assembly in agreement with the Standing Committee, with the understanding that the election by the Board stood, and that Dr. Hennighausen would serve during the year, but that he could not be inaugurated until after a favorable action by the Assembly next year, to which the matter is to be presented in accordance with the minute of the Standing Committee of the last Assembly.

Some such minute will define Dr. Hennighausen's status for the year. It will remain for us now to think out the things that can be done this year to ~~bring~~ ^{bring} favorable action by the next General Assembly. The ~~point~~ ^{point} favorable occurred to me, viz:

(1) That Dr. Hourigahusen should write to the publishers of his book stating that he wished to withdraw that section of it which deals with the Bible and which does not actually express his present mind, and that if any further edition is to be printed he wishes to change the text in this regard.

(2) Secure some time during the year an action by the Presbytery of Indianapolis, to be preferably after personal consultation with Dr. Hourigahusen, in which the Presbytery would express its surprise and dissatisfaction in the attitude of the Standing Committee and would register again its endorsement and approval of Dr. Hourigahusen on the very points which were under criticism before the Committee.

(3) Secure from Dr. Hourigahusen in addition to the general statement which, as you told me, he and others signed a specific acceptance of Chapter I of the Confession embodying the confessional doctrine of Holy Scripture.

(4) Some time before the next General Assembly on the basis of such statements as the above secure from Dr. Montgomery, the Chairman of the Committee at the last Assembly, a statement of his entire satisfaction and his approval of the confirmation of Dr. Hourigahusen by the last Assembly.

(5) I believe in miracles, but perhaps it would be too great a miracle to hope that in some way Dr. McCartney might feel himself wholly reassured with regard to Dr. Hourigahusen, so that it could be reported to the next Standing Committee that his objections as presented this last May were withdrawn. Perhaps Dr. Hutchinson could bring this about, at any rate, I should think it would be well if you would discuss the matter with him.

I trust you will not mind my speaking about another matter, but I know it is in the mind of some of your public friends, namely what seems to them to be an increasing and accessive deliberateness and slowness of statement in your addresses. Can't you hit up the pace by a little more rapid

ROCKLEDGE
LAKEVILLE, CONNECTICUT

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speech. I don't think one noticed this deliberateness in your speaking ten years ago, but it has grown to be very noticeable of late, and I believe it would help a great deal if you could put a little more pressure on the accelerator. Forgive my guessing about it, but my doing so is another proof of sincere affection.

I have just had a fine letter from Dr. Cairns full of evidences of the tension under which Great Britain has been.

Ever affectionately yours,